

Ye Are Even As The Bird

Bahá'u'lláh

Gleanings From The Writings Of Bahá'u'lláh, CLIII, pp. 327*, 328**
Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette Il., 1976
SSAATTB

John Thomas Higgins

♩=60

SOPRANO
ALTO

Ye* are e-ven as the bird which soar-eth, with the full force of its

4

S. A.

might-y wings and with com-plete and joy-ous con-fi-dence through the im-

7

S. A.

men-si-ty of the heav-ens,— heav-ens. un-til, im-pelled to

11

S. A.

T. B.

sat-is-sy its hun-ger, hun-ger— it turn-eth long-ing-ly to the

14

S. A.

T. B.

wat-er and clay of the earth— be-low it, and hav-ing been en-trapped in the

Ye Are Even As The Bird

17

S. A. mesh of its de-sire find-eth it-self im-po-tent to re-sume its flight to the

T. B. mesh of its de-sire find-eth it-self im-po-tent to re-sume it's flight to the

21

S. A. realms_ whence it came. Pow-er-less to shake off the

T. B. realms whence it came_ Pow-er-less to shake off the

24

S. A. bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird, hi-ther-to an in-mate of the

T. B. bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird, ah ah

27

S. A. heav-ens,_ heav-ens,_ is now forced to seek a dwel-ling place

T. B. heav-ens,_ heav-ens,_ is now forced to seek a dwel-ling place

Ye Are Even As The Bird

30 **rit.** ♩=60

S. A. — u-pon the dust. Where-fore, O My ser-vants, de-file not your wings with the

T. B. — u-pon the dust. Where-fore, O My ser-vants, de-file not your wings with the

34

S. A. clay of way-ward-ness and vain de-sires.

T. B. clay of way-ward-ness and vain de-sires. **The world is but a show, vain and

38

S. A. The world is but a show, vain and emp-ty,-

T. B. emp-ty emp-ty a mere noth-ing

42

S. A. Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

T. B. — bear-ing the semb-lance of re-al-i-ty.

46

S. A. The world is but a show, vain—and emp-ty, a mere noth-ing

T. B. The world is but a show, vain—and emp-ty, a mere noth-ing

Ye Are Even As The Bird

50

S. A. *Set not*

T. B. *Set not*

bear-ing the semb-lance of re-al-i-ty. *Set not* your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

bear-ing the semb-lance of re-al-i-ty. *Set not* your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

54

S. A.

T. B.

The world is but a show vain and emp-ty *Set not* your af - fec - tions

The world is but a show, vain and emp-ty *Set not* your af - fec - tions

58

♩ = 50
Solo, sing slowly

S. A.

T. B.

Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it. Ye are e-ven as the bird which soar-eth,

Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

Performance notes

This music makes use of the technique of 'word painting', the musical depiction of words in the text. It tries to imitate the emotion or action described in the text, moving upwards as the bird soars, using dissonance as the bird is trapped in the clay of the material world. The last section sets parallel fourths and fifths together like trumpets blaring as Caesar paraded by, in a movie of ancient Rome, to emphasize that the world, truly, is "but a show".